CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An audio appliance for reading and processing digital audio data stored on an optical storage medium, comprising:

a controlled drive device arranged for rotating the storage medium at a speed of rotation that is variable;

optical sampling means for reading the audio data from the storage medium;

a decompression module operatively connected to said optical sampling means for receiving the audio data read by said optical sampling means and for decompressing compressed audio data; and

evaluation means for converting the digital audio data to analog audio data,

wherein said speed of rotation is varied in response to a type of audio data being read by said optical sampling means.

2. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said speed of rotation is set to a first speed when the audio data read by said optical sampling means comprises compressed data and said speed of rotation is set to a second speed when the audio data read by said optical sampling means comprises uncompressed data, said first speed being lower than said second speed.

3. The audio appliance of claim 1, further comprising means for automatically bypassing said decompression module when the audio data read by said optical sampling means comprises uncompressed audio data.

4. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said speed of rotation is automatically settable for a continuous audio reproduction without buffering of the audio data when the audio data read by said optical sampling means comprises compressed data and when the audio data read by said optical sampling means comprises uncompressed data.

5. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said decompression module is arranged for decompressing lossy-compressed audio data.

6. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said decompression module is arranged for decompressing asymmetrically compressed audio data.

7. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said decompression module is designed on the basis of the MP3 standard.

8. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein said speed of rotation is automatically determined from information stored on the storage medium.

9. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a compact disk.

10. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a digital versatile disk.

11. The audio appliance of claim 1, wherein the storage medium contains both compressed and uncompressed audio data.